

SEPTEMBER 2023

Q3 NEWS



NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2023



Photo: Canva



WELCOME FROM THE FOUNDER



As the 3rd term draws to a close and life on the play ground, sports field and class rooms shut down, Orange Grove Farm comes alive. As Spring gives birth to new life, vegetable gardens being planted, bees making honey, aloes in full bloom we give thanks to God for his faithfulness and favour towards us.

New ideas are always being discussed and steps of faith are taken daily as new projects are birthed. See our new website www.ithemba4hope.org done by one of our alumni, Abby Friedemann.

Thank you to our team at Orange Grove that are the cogs of the wheel that make it all happen. Thank you to the wider Ithemba Trust family who provide the "fuel" to help make the vision happen.

Each day I drive onto the property and my spirit leaps with the excitement of new prospects and lives being changed forever.

Thank you and blessings to you all.

Kitty Phillips

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ITHEMBA NEWS



Visitors

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your generous support and contributions to our school. Your unwavering commitment to our students and their education has made a significant impact on their lives.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide our students with enhanced learning opportunities, access to resources, and improved facilities. Your contributions have allowed us to organize various extracurricular activities, field trips, and educational programs that have enriched their overall learning experience.

We are truly grateful for your continued support, as it enables us to offer sponsorship and financial assistance to deserving students who may not have had the opportunity otherwise. Your belief in their potential and dedication to their success is very much appreciated. We would like to express our deepest appreciation for your commitment to education and for being such valuable partners in our journey towards academic excellence. Your generosity has made a lasting impact on the lives of our students, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Old friends, *Clay and Abby Bebee* from Texas, along with their two daughters, visited us and their sponsored children in July. *Clay* has been sponsoring *Simba* since he was 6 years old and he is now 19! They travelled with their friends *Alex and Cortney Pelley* also from Texas along with their two daughters. A fun day of reunions and making new friends was had by all.



Once again, thank you to our sponsors and donors for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. We look forward to continuing this partnership and working together to empower our students to reach their full potential.

Landon and Heather Lemons from Missouri, also took time out from their hunt to visit the school. This was especially special for Heather who teaches inner city troubled teenagers. We so enjoyed hearing her stories and the knitting of hearts that took place.



Jeff Kimbell along with Chris and Courtney Cox and all their children also visited us during their safari with Ezulu Adventures. They brought along SCI Blue Bags full of gifts for the children. In 2015 the Bell family joined with the SCI Foundation in support of their Humanitarian Services program by making a major funding commitment to what is now known as the Bell Family Blue Bag – “Pay It Forward” initiative. It is the goal of this program to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate throughout the world. Through this program the Bells join with hunting families and their friends all over the world to promote a “Pay It Forward” spirit for the benefit of those less fortunate and to improve the quality of life worldwide. We thank the Kimbell and Cox families for bringing us Blue Bags filled with wonderful goods for the children of Ithemba. Thank you for choosing us!

We would like to welcome *Cindy Beall* from New Mexico to our sponsorship program. *Cindy* accompanied her husband, *Troy* on a hunt with Ezulu Adventures and on their visit to the school her heart was captured. We look forward to journeying with you!



OGS NEWS



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Photo: Canva

...HEW 27:10
was spoken by Jeremiah
filled: "They took the
price set on him by the
they used them to buy
Lord commanded me

Jesus Before Pilate
11 Meanwhile Jesus
and the governor as
of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you
12 When he was a
the elders, he ga
asked him, "Don
are bringing agai
reply, not even
agement of
it wa



"I want little children to come to me, so never interfere with them when they want to come, for heaven's kingdom realm is composed of beloved ones like these! Listen to this truth: No one will enter the kingdom realm of heaven unless he becomes like one of these!"

Matthew 19: 14 (TPT)



During our educational journey this term, we explored various fruits and vegetables to further our understanding of healthy choices. We visited multiple businesses to gain insight into diverse professions. At BKB and the Butchery, we witnessed the process of sausage-making. A visit to the pharmacy helped us learn about maintaining good health. We treated ourselves to a delightful cupcake at The Story, our local coffee shop. Our experience was enriched with a visit to the hospital, where a doctor performed abdominal scans on all participants. The colourful and entertaining artwork enhanced our overall learning experience. In addition, we held an inter-house athletics event where Kudu emerged as the winner. We were pleased to welcome three new students—*Taylor, Lipelo, and Dewet*—to Nandi's class in September for a twice-weekly arrangement.

We are excited to be able to look forward to implementing AEE's new ECD curriculum in 2024. JOY! Is a captivating 36 week programme designed for Grade 000 to 00. It aims to nurture children's understanding of their unique purpose, allowing them to grow not just intellectually, but spiritually too.



ACADEMIC NEWS



Fiana
4/9



Geanna
5/9



Kamo
4/9



Lusamele
4/9

Classroom news

At the onset of the term, *Kitty Phillips* and *Cathy Hood* had the honor of attending the AEE Administrator's Seminar, spanning over five days. The seminar's theme was "Generation to Generation," emphasizing the importance of identifying and cultivating the next generation's potential while imparting wisdom to release the vision at the appropriate time. Their experience was rejuvenating, and they are eager to embrace new challenges.

We extend our gratitude to *Sam Heath* for assisting *Elly Kew* as a monitor for Grade 4 and 5 class in Yolanda's absence. *Sam* has also played a crucial role in nurturing the class's love for music and worship. During the term, *Amila Mcubuse* was inspired to create a new worship song, and with Sam's guidance, the class composed a beautiful hymn that has been sung during our school assemblies. On the 9th of August, South Africa celebrates Women's Day, and in the spirit of empowering the next generation, the senior female students were invited to partake in tea and cakes with the staff. During this gathering, we prayed for and encouraged the girls.

Media news

The media center has been bustling with activity, as we've introduced a range of new programs and skill-building sessions across various classes. The coding courses have been particularly successful, with a vast majority of our students completing their coursework and progressing to more advanced levels. Our online chess platform has also been a source of healthy competition between our Kudu and Gemsbok teams, with many of our learners showcasing their prowess in a recent SACSSA tournament. As we look forward to the challenges of Term 4, we remain committed to fostering a stimulating and supportive learning environment for all our students.

Skills program

Our team has continued to make remarkable strides in improving the productivity of the nursery tunnel. Concurrently, they have initiated the development of vegetable seedlings that will be available for purchase and plantation in due time. Additionally, each member of our team had an individual project for term 3. Liya's project involved constructing hockey goal posts for the school, providing a valuable resource for the sports program. Thanks to Liya's efforts, our teams can now practice with the necessary equipment. *Linomtha*, on the other hand, built and installed a chicken coop to supply the school and the wider OGS family with fresh eggs, creating a promising business opportunity. Congratulations to both of them on their exceptional work. We anticipate continued success in term 4.

SPORTS & CULTURE



It's been a term of sporting triumphs! Our hockey stars kicked off the season with a bang, heading over to Yellowwoods in Adelaide for a thrilling tournament. The U13 squad played on Friday, battling it out in five matches, with just one loss against Yellowwoods. On Saturday, our U10 champs played five matches and won them all, grabbing the glory of the golden hockey stick award for best team of the day!



But that's not all—we also sent a team of running warriors to the National Cross Country in Kwa-Zulu Natal, and wow did they run like the wind! Our athletes blew away the competition, with a special shout-out to *Amo Smouse* (in red tracksuit), who smashed her 2022 record of 15:17:00 in the girls U11 3km race by crossing the finish line at 14:39:00 in the girls U12 3km race, snagging a shiny silver medal and earning her national colours yet again. Amo, you are a superstar, and we're so proud to have you represent our school with such grit and determination!



OGS knocked it out of the park at the regional Athletics tournament in Gqeberha, with eight of our superstars soaring to the top 10 leaderboard. Kudos to *Amo Smouse*, *Bastie Bryant*, *Esinako Mguzulwa*, and *Sabelo Mabece* for snatching up the *Victor Ludorum* title in their junior and senior categories. *Samkhi Mkhencele*, *FJ Solani*, *Khumo Smouse*, and *Mesuli Skomolo* also showed off their skills, landing among the top 10.

As the term wrapped up, we took on the Winterberg School Trust in soccer and netball. While we didn't quite clinch the soccer win, our netball champs crushed it! The interhouse sports scores tallied up to 871 points for Gemsbok and 995 for Kudu, making Kudu the ultimate champs for the term. We're giving a standing ovation to every learner for their hard work and dedication on the field. Keep soaring high!



As followers of the Christian faith, we find solace in the knowledge that our heritage is intricately intertwined with our spirituality. As Christians, we are reminded of our duty to embrace and celebrate our heritage, for it is a gift from above.



September is celebrated as Heritage month in South Africa to honour the country's rich cultural diversity. With 12 official languages and a wide range of traditions, cuisines, and fashion, Heritage Day on September 24th pays tribute to the cultural abundance of the nation. People from all walks of life come together on this day to celebrate the living heritage that forms the essence of all communities in the country. One of the highlights of Heritage Month is the opportunity to showcase and appreciate the diverse cultural clothing styles that South Africans take pride in. Whether adorned in traditional prints or accessorized with vibrant beads and headpieces, there is a unique look for everyone to embrace and celebrate their heritage. What a way to close off our term!





OUTDOOR NEWS

Nursery

Our OGS nursery is currently operating at maximum capacity. In addition to funding initiatives through plant sales, we are offering horticulture training to our students. We have partnered with *Tau* and *Sanele* (picture in the middle), who are diligently working to cultivate our vegetable garden, with the intention of providing sustenance to our community.



Excursion

At the tail end of term, we rounded up some of our students, teachers, and parents for a wild adventure on the Karoo River. Armed with inflatable rafts, we tackled a section of the Teebus River, riding waves and splashing around like kids. Some were a tad nervous, but it was all in good fun. Everyone got a turn to paddle, and we even had some budding rafting pros in the making. To cap it all off, we went over a weir as tall as a person, and feasted on a delightful lunch by the river before the dusty journey back home.



Back 2 Nature

The third term is our coldest at Orange Grove so we spent a fair amount of time in the classroom, learning about insects, photosynthesis, animal classification, venom and more. From grade 4 and up, all our students had to invent an imaginary new species, draw up field notes on it and present their findings to the Royal Biological Society of Tarkastad (their class). We found a burrowing scorpion and looked at it in the dark under a UV light—they fluoresce green—and we found a perfect cross section into a termite colony under an old archery butt. We got to see an actual termite fungus garden and discussed the many ways these creatures get their food from hard-to-digest cellulose. We also went on the first of three planned outings to the mountain village of Hogsback where we hiked to magnificent waterfalls, got to see Cape Parrots and Knysna Turacos as well as have lots of laughs—particularly at those who put too much hot sauce on their tacos.



Archery



This term, we set our sights on a new challenge for our archers: how to hit the bullseye from even further out! Seven brave souls took it one step further, gearing up for an epic archery showdown at the Eastern Cape Indoor Championships in Grahamstown. After hours of non-stop shooting on Saturday, they were beyond exhausted and still had to return to the battlefield the next day. The competition was no walk in the park, with fierce competitors all around, but our archers stayed true to their training. They pushed their limits and gave it their all, leaving us beaming with pride. A special shoutout goes to *Amo Smouse* who went above and beyond, earning her district colours at the competition – way to go, Amo!



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- Independent Examination Board (IEB)

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